

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that no further amendments be in order to S. 896, and that on Wednesday, May 6, following a period of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 896, and proceed to vote in the order listed on the pending amendments, with no amendment in order to any amendment listed; that prior to each vote, there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that after the first vote, any succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes each: Senator Reed of Rhode Island No. 1039, as modified; Boxer No. 1035; Casey No. 1033; Grassley No. 1020, as modified; Coburn second degree No. 1042; Reed of Rhode Island No. 1040, as amended, if amended; Kerry No. 1036, as modified; Schumer No. 1031, as modified; Grassley No. 1021, as modified; provided further, that upon disposition of the listed amendments, the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; the bill be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I have a series of unanimous consent requests to make.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN AID REFORM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the administration considers ways to reform our foreign aid programs, I want to call attention to a recent Op Ed piece by a Vermont friend who has over 30 years of experience dealing with these issues.

Dr. George Burrill founded Associates in Rural Development—ARD—in Burlington in 1977 and since then he has brought Vermont common sense and values to international aid and development work. Since its founding, it has implemented some 600 projects around the world including extensive work with the U.S. Agency for International Development. Today ARD, a for-profit international development firm, has \$100 million in annual revenue operating out of 43 field offices around the world.

Throughout his career, Dr. Burrill has thought long and hard about ways

to make foreign aid more effective. In his recent piece in the Burlington Free Press, a copy of which I will ask to be printed in the RECORD, Dr. Burrill calls for a “modernization” of our thinking about foreign aid; the creation of a global development strategy to give U.S. foreign aid agencies a way to effectively evaluate past actions and determine what reform is needed; and tools for evaluating progress. Beyond that, he proposes developing a “coherent strategy that will foster economic opportunity” in the developing world, enacting legislation that “elevates development as a foreign policy pillar equal with diplomacy and military defense,” and creating an independent executive agency bringing together the relevant Federal agencies and departments into a single group “giving the executive branch the authority it needs to develop solutions to 21st century problems while providing accountability to Congress.”

Foreign aid reform means many things to different people, but there is one thing we all agree on—it is overdue. Dr. Burrill’s voice is one that should be listened to, and I commend him for speaking out.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Apr. 30, 2009]

MY TURN: INVESTING IN SMART POWER IS
FOREIGN AID WELL SPENT
(By George Burrill)

During his campaign, Barack Obama called for salvaging America’s international reputation. Rebuilding international respect and trust, he correctly maintained, is vital to our future security and economic well-being. The president’s new budget proposal indicates that he intends to follow through with this promise. Americans should be encouraged and relieved that the budget supports an increased emphasis on nonmilitary responses to our security and foreign policy interests.

A major component of nonmilitary response is our foreign assistance and development programs. They are critical in the struggle against global poverty, open markets for our products, spread our basic values, and help address global environmental and economic problems. In the 21st century, America needs smart power, as robust a diplomatic and international development capability as it has military strength. Now is the time to modernize our thinking about how to relate to the developing world.

There are several steps the Obama administration must take in order to achieve the promise of a bold makeover. These steps are consistent with the effort to make government more efficient and to ensure that the American public is getting more services and impact for the dollar. And they won’t cost anything.

First, along with the redesign of our national security and foreign policy, which the president has already vigorously embarked upon, government needs to simultaneously create a global development strategy. We need a coherent strategy that will foster increases in economic opportunity for the bottom billion of Earth’s residents and help eliminate the conditions that foster conflict

in the developing world. When the United States leads on international development and relief issues, it enhances our international standing and strengthens our relationships with allies. It creates improved possibilities for America’s global agenda.

Second, the White House needs to work with Congress and representatives of the broader development community in crafting new legislation that elevates development as a foreign policy pillar, equal with diplomacy and military defense. We currently have an outdated, inadequate set of legislation; international foreign assistance efforts that are spread across at least 20 different agencies (which has created competing fiefdoms and inefficiency). No single person or authority is clearly in charge that the president and Congress can hold accountable. New legislation would provide the congressional mandate for streamlined organizational structures and coherent policies, and give the executive branch the clear authority it needs to develop solutions to 21st-century challenges while providing accountability to Congress.

Third, a modernized set of foreign assistance policies and operations must be placed in a single, streamlined, consolidated and empowered U.S. development agency. The ideal option for streamlining and eliminating the current, inefficient, multi-agency situation would be to create a new Cabinet-level department for global development, as is the case in England. Or the White House could work with the Congress and create a new subcabinet, independent executive agency. Either option should merge all international development and humanitarian programs into a single entity. Agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corp., the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and all the international development programs of various agencies including those in the Department of Defense should be merged.

As a candidate, Obama indicated his support for these actions, but there have been no recent public comments by the administration about any planned reorganization. Efficiency calls for it.

America cannot afford an uncoordinated, confused or second-best approach to our relations with the developing world. Our foreign assistance programs have immense importance in addressing global poverty, eliminating the environments that help create terrorists and fostering the advancement of a sound global economy. The Obama administration and Congress must not miss this opportunity to modernize our foreign assistance infrastructure. Getting the most out of the new budget demands it.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard.